



**Pensacola, Fla.**—An early morning car crash killed a PO1. He lost control of a Ford Mustang while running about 130 mph, started skidding, and hit a power pole on the center of the driver's side. He was ejected from the car.

**Ripley County, Mo.**—According to the mishap report, sunlight glare is believed to have been the major cause of an auto crash that killed a PO1. His car ran off the left side of the road, hit a highway sign, then struck a group of trees. Was speeding involved? It's possible. The driver already had a court date scheduled for a reckless-driving (racing) charge.

**Modesto, Calif.**—One Marine corporal killed, another injured. That's the sobering results of a mishap in which both victims were under the influence of alcohol and speeding when their Ford Mustang GT left the road and rolled. The driver died when he was thrown from the vehicle and hit the pavement. The injured passenger suffered cranial damage and spent 56 days in a hospital. He also will spend eight months on light duty.

**Beaumont, Texas**—A Coast Guard fireman en route to his grandmother's funeral 1,111 miles away from his command never made it. Instead, he died in an automobile accident. According to the police report, the fireman's car left the road, hit a culvert, and flipped several times before coming to rest on its top. The collapsed roof trapped the victim in a position that made it impossible for him to breathe.

The investigating state trooper reported that "fatigue or lack of sleep" could have been a contributing factor in this accident. The victim averaged 61 mph for the 1,035 miles he had driven before the crash, which suggests that he didn't rest, except, perhaps, for some small breaks. There was no evidence of alcohol, drug use, or speeding.

After this tragedy, the victim's CO re-emphasized the importance of breaking up long trips with adequate rest, especially trips that require driving during normal sleep periods.

**Facade, Italy**—A Navy lieutenant was snowboarding with family and friends when he hit a patch of ice and fell backward, hitting his head. He sat up and said a few words to his wife when she arrived by his side, then tried to stand but couldn't.

Emergency personnel were notified, and a helicopter was called to the scene. For several minutes, the lieutenant continued sitting and talking to people while medical personnel attended to him. However, he eventually lay back and slowly lost consciousness.

The medical personnel tried to airlift the victim but had to remove him from the helicopter and start CPR when his heart rate suddenly fell. Fifteen minutes later, he was pronounced dead.

The victim's CO had two recommendations stemming from this tragedy:

- Ensure people are trained in seasonal recreational activities. The lieutenant was on his own for the first time after three days of lessons.

- Emphasize the need for everyone to be familiar with the prescribed equipment for a chosen sport. Encourage those snowboarding to wear a helmet. 